

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01601 180954Z

20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9672

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 1601

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJ: DESPITE ANOTHER ADVERSE COURT DECISION, EFFORTS TO END
FLOGGINGS CONTINUE

1. IN DECISION GIVEN ON APRIL 17, SOUTH WEST AFRICA SUPREME COURT ONCE AGAIN REFUSED TO GRANT ANGLICAN BISHOP SUFFRAGAN RICHARD WOOD LEAVE TO APPEAL AGAINST COURT'S REFUSAL TO REIMPOSE INTERDICT AGAINST FLOGGINGS IN OWAMBO. WOOD STILL HAS ONE RECOURSE OPEN TO HIM. HE HAS DIRECTLY PETITIONED SOUTH AFRICAN CHIEF JUSTICE IN BLOEMFONTEIN ASKING HIM TO INTERVENE AND INSTRUCT COURTS TO HEAR AGAIN THE CASES THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE THEM BY WOOD AND BISHOP LEONARD AUALA (PRETORIA 1495).

2. IT IS PROBABLE THAT SWA SUPREME COURT'S PREVIOUS DECISION THAT NEITHER AUALA NOR WOOD HAD LOCUS STANDI IN FLOGGING CASES WILL PREVAIL AND THAT WOOD'S LATEST EFFORT WILL FAIL. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE IN WINDHOEK, A NEW APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL AGAINST FLOGGINGS WILL BE MADE ON MAY 9. THE APPLICANTS WILL BE MEMBERS OF SWAPO AND

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 01601 180954Z

DEMOCRATIC COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PARTY (DEMKOP), A POLITICAL

PARTY OPPOSED TO OWAMBO GOVERNMENT. SINCE THESE APPLICANTS ARE PERSONS WHO COULD BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY FLOGGINGS, THEIR REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL MAY HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS THAT WOOD'S AND AUALA'S.

3. ALSO ON MAY 9, SWA SUPREME COURT WILL REVIEW CASES OF DEMKOP LEADER JOHANNES NANGUTUUALA, ANDREAS NUUKWAWO, AND ARCHDEACON FNU SHILONGO. THEIR CASES WERE TO HAVE BEEN HEARD APRIL 15, AFTER ORIGINALLY HAVING BEEN SET FOR APRIL 5 (PRETORIA 1310). THESE THREE CASES ARE PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT OF VARIOUS FLOGGING APPEALS WHICH ARE COMING BEFORE COURTS. THE DETERMINATION WILL NOT BE WHETHER AN INTERDICT AGAINST FLOGGINGS SHOULD BE IMPOSED, BUT WHETHER THE TRIALS OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN FLOGGED WERE PROPERLY CONDUCTED, WHETHER SENTENCES WERE LEGAL, AND, EVEN IF THEY WERE LEGALLY IMPOSED, WHETHER SENTENCES WERE EXCESSIVE. WHATEVER DECISION COURT MAKES WITH RESPECT TO LEGALITY OR ILLEGALITY OF FLOGGINGS WOULD, UNDER SWA LAW, BECOME BINDING ON TRIBAL COURTS.
HURD

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